2006–2007

Saskatchewan

Provincial Budget

Performance Plan

Saskatchewan Environment

2007-00003

Minister's Message

It gives me great pleasure to present Saskatchewan Environment's performance plan for 2006-07.

Saskatchewan Environment is proud to be a leader in achieving the Province's priority of ensuring a green and prosperous economy for generations to come.

A cornerstone upon which the commitment to a green and prosperous economy is being built is a new long-term provincial *Green Strategy*. When complete, the strategy will guide change that will touch each of us and our families by leading to environmental management that better integrates economic and environmental interests. Proposed actions include development of a more streamlined regulatory system, water conservation, greenhouse gas emission reductions, and increased green energy. This approach will promote a healthy environment, healthy economy and healthy people.

This is a time of change and challenge in many areas of the provincial environment and economy. Responding to climate change requires ongoing diligence and partnership with other governments, other provincial agencies and private industry to develop optimum solutions. The Province's forest industry, particularly the pulp and paper sector, is facing market and industry transformation. Saskatchewan Environment is working with Forestry Secretariat to provide leadership for the strategic reconfiguration of the Province's forest industry, as the sector adapts to changing Canadian and world markets. It will also be an eventful year for the Province's parks as we celebrate their 75th anniversary and the Department completes a plan to ensure the Province's parks thrive into the future. We will also be assessing current practices in allocating and managing Crown resource land, as well as undertaking a review of provincial fisheries management.

The Department continues to carry out the Government commitment to work with partner agencies to implement the *Safe Drinking Water Strategy* and ensure safe and sustainable drinking water and wastewater systems. The Department also continues its work in renewing the fire fighting fleet and conducting a Regional Environmental Study of the Great Sand Hills region.

I am committed to having the Department complete the actions identified in this plan and to report on our progress in the annual report in July 2007. I am confident this plan will help us work together to achieve our objectives.

John T. Nilson

John T. Nilson, Q.C.
Minister of Environment

Who We Are

The mandate of the Department is to protect and manage Saskatchewan's environmental and natural resources, so as to maintain a high level of environmental quality, ensure sustainable development, and provide health, economic and social benefits for present and future generations.

KEY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Department works to fulfill this mandate by promoting stewardship of the air, land, water, and wild plants and animals. Key responsibilities in relation to natural resources include forest management, wildland fire management, parks, Crown land, and fish and wildlife management. Saskatchewan Environment also has management responsibilities to prevent pollution of provincial air, water and land, which it delivers through activities such as co-ordinating the environmental assessment process, air quality monitoring, protection of drinking water and wastewater management, and activities to control potential impacts of contaminated sites, hazardous goods, landfills and other similar sources of pollution.

Saskatchewan Environment recognizes that effective environmental stewardship requires shared responsibility for the decisions made and actions needed among stakeholders and the public. Saskatchewan Environment uses processes of co-management, partnership, public involvement, and communications and education to build understanding among individuals and organizations of environmental challenges and to ensure that decisions needed are understood and well-informed by a wide range of community, economic and individual concerns.

Some of the legislation administered by Saskatchewan Environment that comprises the major tools for ensuring sustainable development and effective pollution prevention and management throughout the Province include: *The Environmental Assessment Act, The Environmental Management and Protection Act, The Forest Resources Management Act, The Prairie and Forest Fires Act, The Wildlife Act,* and *The Provincial Lands Act.*

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

Programs are delivered through two divisions: the Compliance, Fire and Forest Division, and the Resource and Environmental Stewardship Division. Each has a provincial mandate. The Compliance, Fire and Forest Division is responsible for field and compliance services, fire management and forest ecosystems. The Resource and Environmental Stewardship Division is responsible for environmental protection, Crown lands, parks, fish and wildlife resource management, as well as human resources.

The Planning and Risk Analysis Division is responsible for key corporate strategic services, including green policy development; environmental assessment; strategic environmental studies, including the Great Sand Hills study; risk analysis; corporate evaluation; strategic planning; policy and legislative services; intergovernmental and Aboriginal affairs, as well as geographic information systems and information technology.

Two branches also report directly to the Deputy Minister, Communications Branch and Finance and Administration Branch. Communications Branch delivers strategic communications and encourages information exchange, increased participation in Department programs, public input into policy and program development and co-ordinates communications with other government departments. Finance and Administration Branch provides financial and property management and financial reporting support.

During 2005-06, Saskatchewan Environment disbanded its Corporate Services Division. Finance and Administration, Human Resources and Information Management branches now report through other divisions or directly to the Deputy Minister. Human Resources Branch, which provides human resource management, reports through Resource and Environmental Stewardship Division; Information Management Branch, which provides information technology management and support, is part of Planning and Risk Analysis Division, and Finance and Administration Branch reports directly to the Deputy Minister.

Saskatchewan Environment maintains 52 field offices strategically located in communities throughout the Province and delivers a broad range of services with 1,337.4 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions.

The services delivered to the public by Saskatchewan Environment during 2004-05 included: sold 120,546 hunting licences and 160,500 angling licences, issued 196 forest product permits, handled 4,761 oil and gas lease requests and issued 3,200 leases, administered 2,156 cottage leases and 5,161 northern dispositions, hosted 2.1 million visitors at 34 parks and contained 169 of 184 wildfires in the full response zone to 10 hectares or less. Regulation and protection services included:

- 258 project reviews by Environmental Assessment Branch;
- 792 waterworks and 520 sewage works inspections; and
- 1,059 warnings issued and 863 charges laid under various resource protection legislation.

Benefits – The services provided by Saskatchewan Environment support a wide range of benefits to the Province, and are based on the understanding that the quality of the environment, the strength of the economy and the health of Saskatchewan people are inter-dependent on each other.

Health – Clean water to drink, clean air to breath and clean land to support us are the building blocks of healthy societies.

Ecosystem services – Healthy ecosystems provide a multitude of ecological services that benefit humans including water purification, flood control, soil fertility, pollination, seed dispersal, food and others benefits.

Economy – Renewable resource (forestry, wildlife, fisheries, etc.) development provides employment to thousands of Saskatchewan citizens and contributes more than $1.3 billion a year to our economy:

- Forestry initiatives in northern Saskatchewan create thousands of jobs. Although the pulp and paper sector is facing market and industry transformation, and the ongoing softwood lumber dispute has impacted markets, the forest industry remains a major employer and there is great potential for the industry in Saskatchewan.
- Saskatchewan Environment's sustainable management of renewable resources creates opportunities for a wide range of nature-based tourism including hunting, fishing, camping and outfitting. Provincial parks generate a significant impact on the economy. Many rural communities rely on parks as a market for their local businesses and for employment opportunities. The outfitting industry maintains visitor expenditures conservatively estimated at $100 million annually.
- Saskatchewan Environment generated total revenues of approximately $50 million in 2004-05 from a variety of sources, such as fishing and hunting license sales, forestry permits and dues, land sales and leases, etc.
- The Department's efforts also support sustainable development in the agricultural, mining, oil and gas, energy, and manufacturing sectors, which contribute an estimated $9.24 billion or 28 per cent of Saskatchewan's gross domestic product to the provincial economy.

Society – The health and beauty of Saskatchewan's natural environment contribute to our physical and mental well-being. Our Province's history and economy are intimately linked to the land and nature.

KEY PARTNERS

This section describes Saskatchewan Environment's relationship with organizations that receive significant funding to deliver services critical to achieving the Department's goals.

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (SWA) (www.swa.ca) is a Treasury Board Crown corporation responsible for protecting, conserving and managing the surface and groundwater resources of the Province. The Deputy Minister of Saskatchewan Environment is the Chair of the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Board of Directors, and in that role provides guidance to the organization and ensures co-ordination of activities between Saskatchewan Environment and SWA. Saskatchewan Watershed Authority publishes annual performance plans as part of Government's commitment to public accountability. Performance plans outline long-term goals and objectives the Authority will pursue, as well as the key actions they will take to make progress toward the objectives. Saskatchewan Watershed Authority also publishes an annual report describing their progress over the year. Saskatchewan Environment and SWA work closely with other partners to ensure safety and quality of water sources in the Province.

Goal 4, Objective1, "Comprehensive and Integrated Environmental Strategies," is in part dependent on the success of partnership programs for recycling offered by SARCAN (www.sarcsarcan.ca), a major recipient of third party funding from the Department, as well as independent industry-created organizations like the Saskatchewan Scrap Tire Corporation (www.scraptire.sk.ca) and the Saskatchewan Association of Resource Recovery Corporation (www.usedoilrecycling.com). Saskatchewan Environment administers the legislation governing these organizations. SARCAN operates a network of over 70 depots under exclusive contract with Saskatchewan Environment to provide services of collecting, processing, transporting and marketing to recycle most ready-to-serve beverage containers. The SARCAN contract outlines result reporting requirements (e.g., recycling rates, employment) for operational and financial results.

Saskatchewan Environment maintains contracts with northern First Nations and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs for First Nations Northern Works to supply fire suppression crews and community services. Saskatchewan Environment also contracts with the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, Ducks Unlimited and the Nature Conservancy of Canada to deliver habitat securement and management programs. Forest Management Agreements with three individual companies guide dues and fees, and sustainable forest management practices with respect to forest harvesting. The Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association and Urban Park Authorities receive funding from Saskatchewan Environment and they independently operate their respective parks. Saskatchewan Environment receives audited financial statements from Wascana Centre Authority in Regina, Pehonan Parkway in Prince Albert and Meewasin Valley Authority in Saskatoon. Redberry Lake Biosphere, which receives a grant from the Department, also provides audited financial statements.

For all major contracts, Saskatchewan Environment reserves the right to review and/or audit compliance to the terms and conditions of the contract.

For details of third party funding, please see Saskatchewan Environment's 2006-07 Financial Overview.

KEY CROSS-GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

Saskatchewan Environment is leading development of a Government-wide Green Strategy, which will provide a foundation for sustainable growth of our Province. It will contribute to Government's commitment to a green and prosperous economy, provide guidance for government departments and agencies to reduce their environmental impact and create new opportunities for co-operation and partnerships among Government, business and the community. The strategy will better integrate environmental and economic values by encouraging opportunities that both protect the environment and build the economy. The plan will provide a vision for a generation and will require both long-term change and immediate action. The three draft long-term goals are:

- Innovation Toward Sustainability – improve our quality of life by using science and technology to foster innovation, economic growth and competitiveness as well as environmental sustainability;
- A Respected and Protected Environment – protect the environment to ensure healthy air, water, soil, biodiversity and ecosystems for the well-being of current and future generations; and
- Shared Responsibility, Integration and Accountability – everyone takes part and shares in the responsibility for creating a society that is economically, socially, culturally and environmentally sustainable.

A Green Strategy for the Province is planned to be announced in 2006-07. Saskatchewan Environment will change its goals, objectives and key actions over time to best support the Green Strategy.

Saskatchewan Environment leads the delivery of the *Safe Drinking Water Strategy* (www.se.gov.sk.ca) in association with Saskatchewan Health, Regional Health Authorities, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, Saskatchewan Government Relations and Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food. The *Safe Drinking Water Strategy* is a comprehensive plan of action designed to deal with the risks that affect drinking water. The *Safe Drinking Water Strategy* will be the subject of a future decision by Cabinet made in the context of new and emerging issues facing water supplies, water quality and uses, and the many environmental, social and economic factors surrounding water.

Saskatchewan Environment works in partnership with First Nations and Métis organizations to pursue environmental and resource management goals. The Department also co-operates with federal government organizations (including Environment Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and Natural Resources Canada) where we share jurisdiction.

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

Input from the public and stakeholders on Saskatchewan Environment's strategic direction is very important to us. The 2005-06 Performance Plan was direct mailed, with a letter from the Deputy Minister requesting feedback, to more than 100 of Saskatchewan Environment's key stakeholder groups. The performance plan was also placed on Saskatchewan Environment's website and made available to the public at Saskatchewan Environment offices and at various public meetings.

Further public and stakeholder input on the future direction of environmental management in Saskatchewan has been received through several Green Forums held across the Province from September 21, 2005 to November 3, 2005. Each forum included both a public meeting and a stakeholder meeting. People could also provide input through the website or through regular mail. More than 500 people attended public meetings and more than 200 attended stakeholder meetings. More information is available at www.se.gov.sk.ca/green/default.

Information from the consultation process will be used to guide development of the Green Strategy. Saskatchewan Environment will make changes necessary to its future planning documents to better support the Green Strategy once it is approved.

Plan at a Glance

The 2006-07 Performance Plan builds on the 2005-06 Performance Plan which was released to the public in March 2005. The goals and objectives of the plan are to be realized over the long term, but the key actions listed are to be implemented during the 2006-07 fiscal year. As environmental and sustainable renewable resource management trends and issues change over time, the performance plan will evolve to respond to these changes.

The Department will report to the public on progress made on each key action under each goal and objective of this performance plan in its 2006-07 Annual Report. We will also report on changes in results of performance measures.

VISION – A high quality environment and healthy ecosystems in perpetuity, which sustain social, health and economic well-being for Saskatchewan citizens

GOAL 1

Reduced risks to clean and healthy ecosystems

OBJECTIVE 1 – *Reduce impacts to surface and groundwater quality*

Performance Measures

- Water Quality Index ratings for lakes
- Water Quality Index ratings for rivers

OBJECTIVE 2 *– Safe and sustainable drinking water and wastewater systems*

Performance Measures

- Per cent of communities with human consumptive waterworks whose operators have received some level of certification
- Per cent of facilities that meet bacteriological guidelines 90 per cent of the time
- Per cent of waterworks (regulated by Saskatchewan Environment) that meet disinfection requirements 90 per cent of the time
- Number of sewage effluent discharges that represent a risk to source waters
- Per cent of survey respondents indicating that they are willing to pay more for their drinking water
- Per cent of survey respondents indicating that they are very or somewhat confident in the quality of their tap water
- Number of system owners that publicly release water quality results

OBJECTIVE 3 *– Reduce risks to the health of people and the environment from air quality*

Performance Measure

- Per cent of time the rating from the Air Pollution Index is good to excellent in Regina and Saskatoon (based on an annual average)

OBJECTIVE 4 *– Reduce risks to people and the environment from contaminated land*

Performance Measures

- Per cent of mines with financial assurances in place
- Per cent of mines with decommissioning and reclamation plans in place

OBJECTIVE 5 *– Healthy ecosystems that support native biological diversity are stable and capable of self-repair*

Performance Measures

- Number of hectares in the Representative Areas Network
- Per cent of native prairie remaining in the Prairie Ecozone

GOAL 2

People, resources and property values at risk from wildfires are protected

OBJECTIVE 1 – *Fire suppression targeted to prioritized values at risk*

Performance Measures

- Per cent of fires in the full response zone contained to 10 hectares or less
- Per cent of escaped fires in the full response zone that are larger than 100 hectares

OBJECTIVE 2 – *Increased capacity of individuals, communities, industries and others to take responsibility for reducing fire hazards and wildfires*

Performance Measure

- Per cent of human-caused wildland fires

GOAL 3

Fair opportunity for sustainable use and enjoyment of renewable resources

OBJECTIVE 1 – *Equitable allocation of natural renewable resources*

Performance Measures

- Number of hectares of Crown land under Integrated Land Use Plans
- Per cent of annual allowable cut harvested

OBJECTIVE 2 – *Accessible recreation and educational opportunities on provincial park and Crown resource lands*

Performance Measures

- Number of provincial park visitations
- Per cent of survey respondents indicating satisfaction with their park visitations

OBJECTIVE 3 – *Increased economic benefits based on sustainable use of natural renewable resources*

Performance Measures

- Number of hectares of the Provincial forest meeting basic level of forest management (fire suppression, licensed harvest, standards including renewal, consultation)
- Number of hectares of the Provincial forest meeting enhanced level of forest management (basic forest management plus approved Forest Management Plan, Forest Management Effects Monitoring Plan implemented, trust fund established for forest renewal)

- Dollar value of commercial fishing and aquaculture production
- Economic impact of Saskatchewan's provincial parks
- Number of angling licences sold
- Number of hunting licences sold

GOAL 4

Shared environmental stewardship

***OBJECTIVE 1** – Comprehensive and integrated environmental strategies*

Performance Measures

- Recycling rates for the following:
  - ~ scrap tires
  - ~ beverage containers
  - ~ pesticide containers
  - ~ used oil
  - ~ paint
  - ~ e-waste

***OBJECTIVE 2** – First Nations and Métis rights and interests are met through co-operative means*

Performance Measure

- Number of co-operative relationships with First Nations and Métis groups

***OBJECTIVE 3** – Strengthened and comprehensive compliance strategies*

Performance Measures

- Number of waterworks that do not meet Saskatchewan Environment's minimum treatment requirements (broken down by pre and post regulatory changes)
- Rate of detection of non-compliance with environmental laws and regulations

***OBJECTIVE 4** – Effective and efficient environmental approval and regulatory processes*

Performance Measure

- Provincial ranking with respect to mining industry satisfaction with environmental regulations

2006-07 Financial Overview

Saskatchewan Environment will expense $179.739 million in 2006-07 to deliver its programs and services throughout the Province. The distribution of Department spending by program area is shown below.

2006-07 ESTIMATES	*(in thousands of dollars)*
Central Management and Services	$ 18,764
Compliance and Field Services	15,253
Forest Services	14,382
Fire Management and Forest Protection	93,716
Environmental Protection and Water Management	25,002
Resource Stewardship	7,985
Fish and Wildlife Development Fund	3,372
Parks	16,229
Planning and Risk Analysis	7,768
Total Appropriation	$ 202,471
Capital Acquisitions	(28,277)
Amortization	5,545
Total Expense	$ 179,739
General Revenue Fund Revenues	$ 44,058
Full-Time Equivalent Staff Complement	1,337.4

The aim of the financial plan is to position Saskatchewan Environment to lead the implementation of the Green Strategy; maintain programs carrying high risk to human health and safety; continue priority third parties grants; allow Saskatchewan Environment to address key pressures in the oil/gas and mineral exploration industry and also make continuing progress on environment-related public commitments. Renewal of the fire suppression aerial fleet will continue in 2006-07, the second fiscal year in a ten-year plan.

Transfers to third parties for 2006-07 are budgeted as follows:

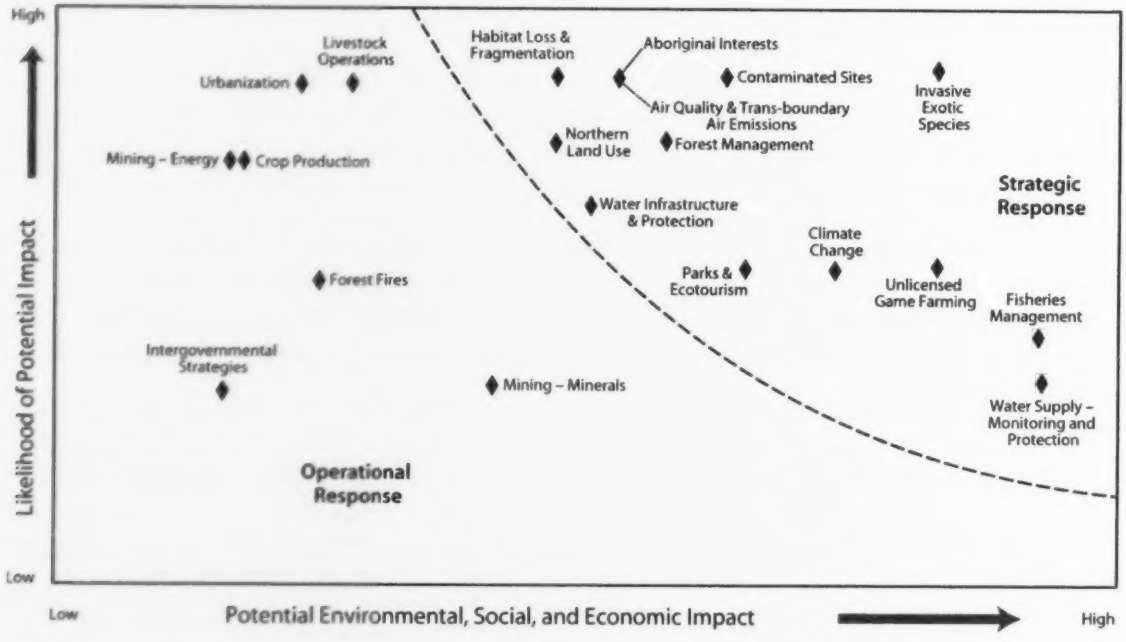
2006-07 ESTIMATES	*(in thousands of dollars)*
Beverage Container Collection and Recycling System	$ 11,348
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority	6,537
Fish and Wildlife Development Fund	3,372
Meewasin Valley Authority	830
Wakamow Valley Authority	142
Wascana Centre Authority	2,754
Prince Albert Pehonan Parkway	135
Swift Current Chinook Parkway	88
Regional Parks	75
Weyburn Tatagwa Parkway	39
Battlefords River Valley Park	55
Total	$ 25,375

Saskatchewan Environment generates revenues of approximately $50 million annually. Revenues generated by Saskatchewan Environment are derived from hunting and angling licences, environmental handling charges, forestry fees and dues, Crown land dispositions, receipts from other governments for recoverable fire suppression costs and park related activities and services. Revenues from Crown land dispositions also benefit the North. Approximately $4 million annually accrues to the Northern Revenue Sharing Trust Account from revenue generated from land disposition in northern Saskatchewan.

Trends and Issues

Saskatchewan Environment undertook a scan of major issues with potential to affect achievement of our goals and objectives, then completed a residual risk assessment of the issues to help guide our responses. Assessing residual risk results in identification of the risk remaining after consideration of existing ameliorative measures in place to reduce potential harm. The graph below illustrates the relative degree of residual risk (likelihood x impact) among the issues. The issues described are very broad and often span a number of the types of risk described in the text of this section following the graph. All of the issues are important though the response needed may vary between the use of existing operations (operational) and a more multi-faceted, long-term (strategic) response. Responses to issues are described more fully in the Goals, Objectives and Key Actions section.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN RISK ANALYSIS



RISKS TO HUMAN HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Managing water-related risks remains a high priority for Saskatchewan Environment due to potential human health risks, but also due to the important role which safe drinking water and good quality source water plays in economic growth and ecosystem health.

Although good progress has been made implementing the *Safe Drinking Water Strategy,* remaining challenges that partner agencies need to continue to focus on over the long term include: ensuring ongoing infrastructure upgrading to meet water quality standards, compliance by small communities, addressing the need for certified operators in small communities, improved and expanded watershed stewardship and source water protection, and addressing and improving wastewater management.

Water supplies are emerging as an important limit on, and driver of, economic development. To help bring greater transparency and public involvement to water management, the Province needs to continue development and implementation of watershed plans.

In general, the overall air quality in the Province is considered good, though there are some site-specific air quality issues that create potential risks. Potential threats include acid deposition as a result of trans-boundary emissions from outside the Province, particulate matter from wildfires, dust and smoke generated from agricultural sources and toxic emissions from industrial sources.

Public interest is growing in the link between personal health and environmental contaminants, particularly in relation to children's health. Saskatchewan Environment is also concerned about minimizing risks from toxic and hazardous wastes.

Much progress has been made toward cleaning up contaminated sites over the past five years through the Province's Centenary Fund. However, there are still abandoned mines (both uranium and other) with open shafts, deteriorated buildings or exposed tailings that are in need of decommissioning.

Meeting the fire protection needs of expanding northern developments and growing northern communities through renewal of the fire fighting air fleet will continue to be a focus of attention for the Department's fire management program. Reducing community fire hazards and increasing fire prevention are also key focuses of Department work with communities in the provincial forest.

RISKS TO ECOSYSTEM HEALTH, BIODIVERSITY AND THE ABUNDANCE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Concerns continue to exist about pressures on shrinking native landscapes, biodiversity loss, the fragmentation and destruction of natural habitat, climate change and invasive species. The loss of wetlands and riparian areas continues to threaten productive ecosystems. These risks remain important and are being managed on an ongoing basis.

Considerable uncertainty remains about the impact of climate change on Saskatchewan. Interest in impacts of a changing climate is increasing and raising questions about adaptation strategies. Due largely to our cold climate, distributed population and growing economy, Saskatchewan's emissions are 31 per cent above 1990 levels and are projected to be at least 40 per cent over 1990 levels by 2010 on a business-as-usual basis.

Saskatchewan Environment continues to be concerned about potential for trans-boundary movement of pollution in sufficient concentrations to affect Saskatchewan ecosystems. The major sources of acid rain for Saskatchewan include the northern Alberta oil sands project, Edmonton-Calgary Urban Corridor and mining operations near the Saskatchewan/Manitoba border. Areas particularly sensitive include shield landscapes and the Great Sand Hills region. It is expected that Alberta's oil sands expansion will further increase the amount of acid rain forming gases in Saskatchewan.

There are currently 15 species formally designated as 'at risk' in Saskatchewan, another 32 species have been identified as potentially meeting the 'at risk' criterion and are being considered for protection under species at risk regulations.

RISKS OF CONFLICT OVER RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS AMONG DIFFERENT USERS

Saskatchewan Environment devotes a large effort to allocating renewable resources and land among different users and in managing competing requests or overlapping uses. The demand for access to provincial renewable natural resources for economic developments, such as commercial fishing, outfitting, ecotourism, and forestry is increasing, and there is growing tension between commercial and recreational use. Saskatchewan Environment's challenge is to satisfy these demands within the sustainable capacity of the resource base.

An ongoing Department priority is to manage Crown resource lands in northern Saskatchewan for multiple uses/benefits for a broad range of stakeholders. In order to ensure environmental considerations are addressed along with economic and social concerns, Saskatchewan Environment focuses on land-use planning which engages community and industry interests.

There is greater uncertainty arising from the recent Supreme Court decision confirming Métis Aboriginal rights for subsistence fishing and hunting. The extent of, and constraints on, this right are not clear at this time.

Another important area of conflict over resource use is over Crown land disposition. The Government-endorsed sales program administered by Saskatchewan Environment affects 37 million hectares (91 million acres) of Crown resource land. A range of issues is emerging around the purchase of lands, including transparency of the process; valuation of the property; trespass construction on Crown resource land; northern residents wanting opportunity for Crown land ownership, but feeling shut out of the existing process; and northerners wanting greater control over economic development initiatives on Crown resource land in their traditional territories.

The supply of renewable natural resources is subject to cycles of abundance and scarcity due to a number of factors, such as natural population fluctuations, weather, over-harvesting, and other human and natural causes over which Saskatchewan Environment often has limited influence. Most natural fish and wildlife populations are in sufficient numbers to satisfy current subsistence, recreational and commercial users. However, some species or some areas may require specific management to ensure sustainable use.

RISKS THAT AFFECT THE ABILITY OF THE PROVINCIAL ECONOMY TO GENERATE JOBS, REVENUE AND GREATER SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUITY

In the short term, the pulp and paper sector of the forest industry is undergoing market and industry transformation. This and the softwood lumber dispute and its impact on the provincial forest industry are significant risks faced by the Department in terms of impact on the economy. The recent announcement by Weyerhaeuser of its intention to close its Prince Albert pulp and paper mills has been a difficult blow for the community and the industry. Saskatchewan Environment is working with the Forestry Secretariat, community and industry to find ways to address these issues.

Also related to the forest industry are the concerns about the impact of forest fires and forest disease upon the industry and local communities. Prioritization of which risks will be addressed is required on an ongoing basis.

High prices for oil and gas have spurred exploration investment which has increased demand near an all time high for processing reviews, approvals, and field presence to ensure environmental concerns are addressed.

Investment in mineral exploration in Saskatchewan has increased from $31 million in 2003 to $60 million in 2004 and is expected to exceed $120 million 2005. This has increased demand on the Department for processing invoices, approvals and inspections. Increased development of the North and associated road development and ongoing human activity will increase pressure of environmental compliance and enforcement issues, as well as increase demand on the Department's wildfire fighting services.

RISKS OF REDUCED PUBLIC SUPPORT

The Department recognizes that the following issues will bear importantly upon public and stakeholder perceptions in 2006-07:

- Progress in implementing Government's environmental commitments.
- Initiation of the Government's Green Strategy.
- Completing the Great Sand Hills Regional Environmental Study.
- Effective management of parks.
- Continued implementation of the Wildfire Management Strategy and Fire Fleet Renewal.
- Ensuring strong enforcement to secure compliance with provincial environmental regulations.
- Addressing the Provincial Auditor's recommendations with respect to financial, air and water management.

Various environmental protection and allocation processes administered by the Department may pose a drag on the provincial economy by adding costs and delays to economic growth and development opportunities. In general, however, Saskatchewan compares favourably to other Canadian and American jurisdictions in the level of co-operation and efficiency of its environmental approval processes.

Environmental challenges sometimes can create economic opportunity through the creation of solutions or alternatives to prevent, mitigate or clean-up the source of the problem. Saskatchewan Environment also recognizes the risk of lost opportunity to capture research and/or development opportunities associated with new technologies that mitigate or eliminate negative environmental impacts. An important mechanism to address this challenge is through development of the Province's Green Strategy, which is intended to produce a Government-wide approach to integrating environmental, social and economic concerns in decision-making.

Saskatchewan's parks provide important economic, environmental, social and cultural values to the people of the Province. Parks are key economic contributors to the Province's tourism industry, and offer rural economic opportunities. Management of the provincial parks system faces issues such as aging infrastructure, changing demands from an aging demographic, and increasing costs for utilities, landfills, and water treatment.

In the parks program, there is ongoing public pressure to ensure acceptable levels of service and capital renewal. Readily available access to provincial parks remains a public expectation. The challenge for Saskatchewan Environment is to maintain the natural and heritage values of parks while meeting visitor demands for enhanced services. Saskatchewan Environment expects to release a long-term plan in 2006-07 to establish future directions for provincial parks and cottage developments.

Recently, Saskatchewan Environment changed its forest fire management program to improve cost control and to allow fire to play a more natural role in the forest. Two relatively wet fire seasons eased implementation of the new fire management strategy, although it means the new approaches have not been fully tested. Future fire management challenges include integration of landscape management to mitigate wildland fire, improving fire suppression capacity of municipalities and meeting the fire protection needs of the expanding developments and communities in northern Saskatchewan to ensure the safety of individuals, communities and businesses in the forest. It is important for Saskatchewan Environment to ensure those who live and work in the forest understand how the changes may affect them and what they can do to protect themselves from fire.

The Department has completed a thorough investigation of incidents of fraud discovered in December 2004 and has responded to the Provincial Auditor's recommendations at the Public Accounts Committee on June 20, 2005. The Department is in the process of completing implementation of all recommendations.

RISKS THAT AFFECT ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PLAN

The unpredictable nature of natural disturbances to the environment can result in unplanned expenditures for the Department. Of most significance is fire suppression; however, outbreaks of wildlife diseases such as Chronic Wasting Disease or the invasion of noxious exotic species, such as zebra mussels, can also require a shift in expenditures which cannot be anticipated and are not reflected in the Department's performance plan.

Recent polling information indicates that Saskatchewan residents are among the most likely in Canada to say that the provincial government will be responsible for solving the most serious environmental problems over the next 10 years. Residents also agree that Government should lead the way in building a sustainable society and support innovation in green technology and business. Saskatchewan Environment is gradually moving to greater shared responsibility for environmental management among the regulated community, non-government organizations and individuals. If a high percentage of individuals continue to feel the provincial government is primarily responsible for environmental stewardship, it will be a challenge to make progress on our goal of shared responsibility for environmental stewardship.

Aggressive development of Saskatchewan's resource-based economy carries significant environmental implications. Environmental management systems need to keep pace to prevent damage up front rather than face the high costs of cleaning-up after. Failure to keep environmental management abreast of economic development could ultimately result in loss of Saskatchewan's strategic advantage of a pristine environment. A balanced approach can keep our Province clean and capture the opportunities to develop our resources as well as our environment-related industry.

Changes from 2005-06 Performance Plan

For 2006-07, Saskatchewan Environment will continue the gradual shift to improve environmental management that was begun in 2004-05. Under the first goal a new objective has been added on drinking water: "Safe and sustainable drinking water and wastewater systems." This change is being made to profile actions of the *Safe Drinking Water Strategy* as part of ongoing programs. Incorporating this objective into the plan also demonstrates the Department's ongoing responsibilities for drinking water management. Having most drinking water related key actions grouped within a single objective allows readers to easily identify all key drinking water initiatives.

There are no other changes to our goals and objectives at this point. However, the Department is leading work to develop a new Green Strategy for the Province, which will provide a vision for improved integration of economic, social and environmental values. When complete, the Green Strategy will result in further changes to Saskatchewan Environment's goals and objectives. The Department's responses to the challenges and opportunities noted in the scan for issues and trends are reflected throughout the performance plan in the key actions. Each key action has been reviewed to ensure consistency with strategic direction and updated, deleted, or new ones added.

On an annual basis, the Department reviews its performance measures, assesses weaknesses and works on developing new measures to improve its measurement set. This year, five new performance measures are being added, seven are being transferred into our plan from the *Safe Drinking Water Strategy*, along with the objective "Safe and sustainable drinking water and wastewater systems," six were moved from one objective to another, three were enhanced and no measures were deleted.

Saskatchewan Environment is gradually improving performance measures for all objectives. The 2006-07 plan has at least one performance measure for each objective in the plan and most objectives now have a more balanced set of measures. Baseline values have been established for all but one of the newly created measures.

Goals, Objectives, Actions and Measures

This section details the Department's performance plan for 2006-07 to support advancement towards our vision of a high quality environment and healthy ecosystems in perpetuity that sustain social, health and economic well-being for Saskatchewan citizens. Under each goal, a number of objectives have been established that describe medium-term conditions necessary for progress towards the broader goal statement. For each objective, a set of key actions is proposed to be completed in 2006-07. They are the means for making progress toward the objectives for this year. A set of performance measures has been developed to gauge progress towards meeting each objective.

In 2004-05, Saskatchewan Environment generated revenue of approximately $50 million and the Department expensed approximately $133.17 million. A key factor with significant impact on the Department's operating costs and performance results is weather conditions. Hot dry weather increases the likelihood and severity of forest fires thereby impacting both performance measurement results (per cent of fires in the full response zone contained to 10 hectares or less; per cent of escaped fires in the full response zone larger than 100 hectares) and overall program costs. Weather also affects the number and satisfaction levels of park visitors, which

in turn impacts revenue to the Department and economic impact of nature-based tourism in the Province. Key factors influencing costs and performance results in relation to each objective are also described within each objective as well as the performance measures.

The following principles guide all of the Department's activities: Ecosystem Approach, Prevention, Risk Assessment, Precaution, Shared Responsibility, Integration, Stewardship, Full Information on Costs, and Accountability.

GOAL 1

Reduced risks to clean and healthy ecosystems

***OBJECTIVE 1** – Reduce impacts to surface and groundwater quality*

Saskatchewan Environment's water program mitigates risks to drinking water and surface water, and thereby protects the health of Saskatchewan's citizens served by public water supplies. Quality water is essential for public health and it is also vital to our economic, social and environmental well-being. In terms of economic risks, the water program ensures that water for commerce and industry is available and reliable. Environmental risks such as pollution to surface water and groundwater are managed to avoid loss of quality aquatic habitat, shifts in aquatic ecological balances and loss or reduction of recreation benefits.

Saskatchewan Environment's strategy to address this objective is to continue programs that establish water quality standards and guidelines for both surface and groundwater, promote pollution prevention and safe use, and regulate water and sewage discharges from large point sources such as municipalities and industrial users. Saskatchewan Environment also monitors and assesses water quality so we can respond appropriately to new issues.

The Province created the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (SWA) in 2002 to develop new approaches to address water use and protection concerns. Saskatchewan Watershed Authority is working with stakeholders to help develop public stewardship programs for many of the Province's watersheds.

Key Actions for 2006-07

- Lead development of the federal/provincial Municipal Wastewater Effluents Project.
- Monitor water quality and ensure the public has access to information on ground and surface water quality.
- Contribute to the development of an integrated water management strategy.

What are we measuring?	Where are we starting from?
Water Quality Index ratings for lakes	*Good* Good Spirit Lake *Fair* Murray Lake *Marginal* Jackfish Lake *[2004]*
Water Quality Index ratings for rivers	*Excellent* Churchill River *Good to Excellent* Assiniboine River, Beaver River, North Saskatchewan River, South Saskatchewan River *Fair to Good* Qu'Appelle River*, Souris River *Poor to Fair* Moose Jaw River** *[2002]*

* *There are two locations along the Qu'Appelle River where the quality would be considered marginal for protection of aquatic life. The river ranges from fair to excellent for livestock watering and irrigation purposes.*

** *Water quality concerns along the Moose Jaw River stem from nutrients and suspended solids from man-made sources (wastewater discharge and agricultural activities) and natural variation (flow, run-off and snow melt).*

The Water Quality Index (WQI), which is based on the national index developed by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, is an overall measure of the quality of water for specific uses such as the protection of aquatic life, livestock watering and recreation. The index is a composite of measurements of different chemicals and organisms in the water at safe levels for a particular use. It is a good measure of the quality of surface or groundwater. The nine rivers currently monitored are: Qu'Appelle, South Saskatchewan, North Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan, Souris, Assiniboine, Churchill, Beaver and Moose Jaw.

The Department has little direct control over the results of this broad measure of water quality. Samples are collected by industries and municipalities in accordance with their permits, as well as by staff of Saskatchewan Environment and other agencies.

The assessment of all watersheds using the WQI is a long-term project. Saskatchewan Environment will be using the data collected from its primary monitoring stations on the major trans-boundary watersheds. The WQI rating in the Qu'Appelle River is expected to improve over the long term as a result of watershed planning efforts led by SWA as well as improvements to Regina and Moose Jaw sewage treatment.

***OBJECTIVE 2** – Safe and sustainable drinking water and wastewater systems*

High quality drinking water is important in protecting human health and is essential in helping to ensure sustainable social and economic growth. The Province's approach to managing drinking water has been guided by the *Safe Drinking Water Strategy*, which recognizes that provision of drinking water and ensuring sound wastewater management and source water protection is dependent on several components. Waterworks staff must be capable and well trained. Infrastructure needs to produce water that meets the national drinking water quality guidelines. Waterworks systems and operations must be financially sustainable. Regulations must be clear and action is needed to ensure that health and drinking water quality will be protected. Professional regulatory staff have access to the tools necessary to ensure compliance. Risks to source water must be known and watersheds must be protected. It is important that natural purification and protection processes are maximized and potential for contamination is minimized. Consumers need to value quality water and be willing to pay for it. Citizens and consumers need to trust the quality and reliability of their drinking water systems and remain confident in the regulatory system. It is important that citizens have meaningful access to information about the quality of their water. Finally, reduced consumption of water is important to sustain water resources. In 2006-07, Saskatchewan Environment plans to make further progress on this 'source-to-tap' approach to water management.

Major cost drivers for this objective include: field inspection, the need to address water contamination incidents and associated testing costs, infrastructure-related demands and unexpected failures, the need to track and manage the application of emerging water quality related standards, and natural events (flood or drought) or incidents affecting source water quality. Other elements affecting the success relate to the timing of decisions by project proponents, construction delays and significant weather events affecting construction, all of which may impact progress on infrastructure improvements.

Saskatchewan Environment has seven output measures for this objective. This objective and the measures focus on ensuring and determining that: waterworks systems and operations provide safe and sustainable water; the drinking water regulatory system is clear and effective; high quality source waters are protected now and into the future and that consumers trust and value their drinking water and the operations which produce it.

Key Actions for 2006-07

- Support ongoing achievement of and compliance with Operator Certification and Operator Continuing Education requirements.
- Finalize and implement strategies to aid small communities to ensure the provision of safe water by affordable and publicly acceptable means.
- Inspect waterworks across the Province at a frequency of two inspections annually at each surface water and priority groundwater waterworks and one inspection at every other regulated waterworks.
- Complete annual sewage works inspections to identify which systems represent a risk to source water quality and to ensure sewage works meet operational and treatment requirements.

What are we measuring?	Where are we starting from?
Per cent of communities with human consumptive waterworks whose operators have received some level of certification	86.8% *[September 30, 2005]*
Per cent of facilities that meet bacteriological guidelines 90 per cent of the time	92.6% *[August 31, 2005]*
Per cent of waterworks (regulated by Saskatchewan Environment) that meet disinfection requirements 90 per cent of the time	92.8% *[August 31, 2005]*
Number of sewage effluent discharges that represent a risk to source waters	92 (However, significant progress has been made on improvements to 14 sewage systems since September 2004) *[September 30, 2005]*
Per cent of survey respondents indicating that they are willing to pay more for their drinking water	68% *[March 2005; latest data available]*
Per cent of survey respondents indicating that they are very or somewhat confident in the quality of their tap water	86% *[March 2005; latest data available]*
Number of system owners that publicly release water quality results	489 *[August 31, 2005]*

The bacteriological quality of water and disinfection compliance are key components of ensuring safe drinking water because of the potential for short-term (relatively immediate) health effects in the event of contamination. The greater the number of communities with certified operators, the greater the safety of the water supply since operator knowledge will influence the quality of water produced. The number of sewage effluent discharges that represent a risk to source waters is a good measure of the degree of protection afforded by wastewater treatment systems presently in place. The Department develops and delivers regulatory programs, guidelines and protocols and has a direct influence on these measures.

The public willingness to pay more for water is a measure of how much the public values safe drinking water provided by means of municipal or public treatment and supply works. Public confidence in drinking water quality is a good measure of the public trust in the ability of waterworks owners and governments to deal with the challenges of providing safe water. Since these are measured through public polling, results could be influenced by events outside the Province. The number of system owners that publicly release water quality results is a good measure of the acceptance of waterworks owners in recognizing their responsibility for safety of water and education of the public. The Government has a high level of influence in the achievement of this requirement through regulations.

***OBJECTIVE 3** – Reduce risks to the health of people and the environment from air quality*

Clean air is essential for human health and public safety. Due to the low provincial population and moderate level of industrial activity, the air quality in Saskatchewan is generally good. Smog is rare, but acid precipitation from industry in Alberta is a potential problem, especially for parts of northern Saskatchewan. Airborne particulates, such as blowing dust and smoke from forest or stubble fires, cause the most noticeable air pollution concern. Other more localized issues are associated with intensive livestock operations, small manufacturing and processing plant emissions. There is also concern about the increasing levels of greenhouse gas emissions in the Province.

Saskatchewan Environment is responsible for administering *The Clean Air Act*, which regulates most major air quality emissions in the Province. The Department's strategy to manage these issues is to maintain standards and guidelines, promote pollution controls and reductions, respond to emerging risks and threats, regulate emissions from large point sources such as utilities, industrial sites and mining operations and monitor and assess air quality. Efforts are also focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from electricity production through greater use of green energy sources such as wind, natural gas and ethanol in gasoline. Businesses and individuals are encouraged to be more energy conscious and efficient.

Key factors that can impact the cost of protecting air quality include economic growth in Saskatchewan, neighboring provinces and states that can result in increased trans-boundary drift of air pollutants, and weather and drought conditions that can result in increased forest fire activity and crop residue burning, both of which contribute to airborne particulates.

Key Actions for 2006-07

- Develop a regional air quality monitoring network in southeast Saskatchewan to support a pilot airshed association.
- Establish a northern air quality monitoring program in response to the expansion of the Alberta Oil Sands.
- Implement a plan to improve administration of the Department's Air Quality Management Program.

What are we measuring?	Where are we starting from?
Per cent of time the rating from the Air Pollution Index is good to excellent in Regina and Saskatoon (based on an annual average)	Regina: 98.4%, good to excellent Saskatoon: 98.7%, good to excellent *[2004-05]*

The Air Pollution Index is used to monitor long-term trends in air quality. The index is a composite of data about measurements of chemicals and particulates in the air. Maintaining urban air quality is an important part of meeting this objective. Saskatchewan Environment has established monitoring stations in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert and is seeking to establish a suitable site in Swift Current. Over the longer term, Saskatchewan Environment will also need to better define rural air quality impacts. The Department has little direct control over the results of this broad measure of air quality because many sources of pollution affecting air quality here originate elsewhere.

***OBJECTIVE 4** – Reduce risks to people and the environment from contaminated land*

Clean land is essential for human health and safe production of food. In addition, there are many economic, recreational and social benefits of clean land. A range of human activities affects the quality of land and soils. For example, as the population continues to urbanize, increasing pressures can be expected from municipalities concerning waste management and stewardship initiatives. Most of the major land use issues have been identified and steps are being taken to address them. Better agriculture and forest management practices are being adopted, contaminated sites and abandoned mines are being cleaned-up, and the mining and petroleum industries are closely regulated to ensure they leave no long-term environmental effects.

Saskatchewan Environment's strategy to address this objective is to continue programs with industry and municipalities that set standards and guidelines, monitor and assess soil quality and waste management practices, respond to risks and threats, and regulate disposal from large point sources, such as municipalities, utilities, large industrial emitters and mining operations.

Saskatchewan Environment uses two output measures that report on minimization of contamination impact on land through the per cent of mines with financial assurances and the per cent of mines with reclamation and decommissioning plans. The Department will continue to look for insightful measures of performance for this objective.

Key Actions for 2006-07

- Complete a provincial strategy for the management of solid municipal waste.
- Continue to assess remedial requirements for abandoned mines.
- Oversee clean-up of priority contaminated sites.

What are we measuring?	Where are we starting from?
Per cent of mines with financial assurances in place	80% *[2004-05]*
Per cent of mines with decommissioning and reclamation plans in place	93% *[2004-05]*

Properly reclaimed mining sites impact the clean land objective directly by returning the site to its original natural state. Mining companies are required to have decommissioning plans and financial assurances in place to ensure that they do not place a burden on Saskatchewan taxpayers should they fail to meet their decommissioning and reclamation obligations. The Department directly regulates the environmental aspects of mining operations and therefore directly influences measure results.

Decommissioning and reclamation plans put in place by mining companies ensure environmental protection at the end of the operation's life. The Department directly regulates the environmental aspects of mining operations and therefore has a direct influence over the measurement results.

OBJECTIVE 5 *– Healthy ecosystems that support native biological diversity are stable and capable of self-repair*

Ecosystem-based management is an approach that incorporates economic, social and environmental considerations in managing natural resources. Biodiversity is a term used to refer to the variety of species and the ecological processes of which they are a part. Biodiversity is essential for preserving the health and diversity of living things that form the web of life on earth, including human life. Loss of ecological health can mean a loss of the system's ability to self-repair and a cycle of continuing deterioration. Such deterioration can reduce, or in some cases eliminate, the goods and services that an ecosystem provides, such as water purification or flood control, pest control, medicinal plants and food, such as fish. Replacement of these

services or restoration of the ecosystem is often very costly and in the worst cases, the service or goods may be lost from an area entirely. Due to human activity, some ecosystems and specific fauna and flora within them are at risk or have been lost. It is important that human activities do not further reduce ecosystem health. Adopting an ecosystem-based approach to resource management and environmental protection will help to ensure ecological sustainability.

Key factors that have an impact on measurement results include price fluctuations in resource and agricultural commodities, and public environmental concerns. Typically, when resource and agriculture industries are experiencing higher activity there is increased demand to use natural areas for industrial production. This also increases costs to acquire and protect property through acquisition of conservation easements.

Key programming includes the development of ecosystem management policies, enhancement of scientific information and databases through monitoring and surveys, and resource stewardship programs and plans, such as the Biodiversity Action Plan, Representative Areas Network (RAN) and Species at Risk.

Saskatchewan Environment now has two output measures for this objective. The RAN program attempts to secure areas representative of each ecoregion in the Province. The RAN measure is important because land in the RAN is protected for the future and it also serves as a benchmark to monitor changes across the broader landscape. The second measure is an indicator of the decline of native prairie in the Prairie Ecozone, Saskatchewan's most altered landscape. Stresses on biodiversity continue with agriculture, oil and gas expansion, etc. The measure is important to track changes to the health and status of the ecosystem; however, it does not reflect the quality of condition of the prairie or how it is dispersed across the Province. Saskatchewan Environment has very limited control over this measure because most of the natural prairie is privately owned and it is affected by broader socio-economic or environmental issues. Several organizations are taking actions in partnership with Saskatchewan Environment to reduce the rate of decline.

Key Actions for 2006-07

- Report on progress toward implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan and determine further actions needed to achieve planned outcomes.
- Work to designate and manage additional protected areas that are representative of the Province's terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
- Ensure renewal of harvested areas within the provincial forests. Plant approximately 2.0 million trees in 2006-07.
- Under the framework of the National Chronic Wasting Disease Control Strategy, implement Saskatchewan's Chronic Wasting Disease Control Program.
- Manage environmental issues associated with continued growth of the oil, natural gas and hard-rock mineral industries in Saskatchewan.

What are we measuring?	Where are we starting from?
Number of hectares in the Representative Areas Network	5.96 million hectares *[2004-05]*
Per cent of native prairie remaining in the Prairie Ecozone	21.5% *[2001]*

Adequate amount and distribution of natural/native habitats under RAN ensures that terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems persist into the future and serve as a benchmark against which we can monitor the effectiveness of environmental stewardship across the broader landscape.

Natural landscapes with representative fauna and flora unique to a given natural ecoregion are selected by the Department for designation as a representative ecological site for inclusion in the RAN. All contributing lands are counted, including those of Government and non-government partners. The RAN program is striving to ensure an adequate percentage of representation of each natural ecoregion in the Province.

Saskatchewan Environment has direct site designating and management influence over this measure. However, the need to consult with local interests may result in a slower rate of progress.

The Prairie Ecozone is the greatest 'at risk' ecozone within the Province. The amount of native prairie remaining uncultivated is a reflection of the ability of that ecosystem to sustain its native flora and fauna. As changes to prairie plants in this ecozone evolve over time, the measure is an indicator of long-term health. It is anticipated that measurement of native prairie remaining will only be taken every five to ten years.

Saskatchewan Environment has some influence over this measure through programs that encourage conservation of native prairie, i.e., Prairie Conservation Action Plan, and through the Department's support of environmental farm planning. This includes partnership agreements that the Department enters into with 'not-for-profit' organizations such as the Nature Conservancy, Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation and Ducks Unlimited that allow for the establishment of conservation easements and other conservation lands. The Department does not have direct control over decisions regarding cultivation of native prairie or conversion of that land for other purposes.

GOAL 2

People, resources and property values at risk from wildfires are protected

***OBJECTIVE 1** – Fire suppression targeted to prioritized values at risk*

The expanding uses of the forest, the increasing population of northern Saskatchewan and the escalating costs of fire suppression are placing unprecedented challenges on the Province's fire management program. As predicted climate warming occurs, additional pressures for fire protection over the long term can be expected. However, newly realized ecological benefits of fire challenge traditional views that all fires must be suppressed. Allowing fires to take their natural

course creates a natural vegetation mosaic and maintains the diversity of natural habitats. Fires help remove the build up of natural litter in the forest, reducing the risk of large, intense and costly fires. Fire also assists in moderating insect and disease infestations. Prescribed fires are used in selected provincial parks as part of vegetation management. In the broader forest landscape, the challenge is to find the proper balance between fire suppression to protect values at risk and the management of fire to maintain healthy and diverse ecosystems.

Protection of human life and communities from wildfires will continue to be the program's top priority. Effective fire protection includes prevention, detection, initial attack, and sustained action. A number of support requirements are essential for fire suppression operations, including training, equipment and fuel procurement, air tankers, meteorological and geospatial information to assess risks, and communication services to support fire suppression teams. Saskatchewan Environment must seek to manage risks where capital and operating expenditures are considerable. Saskatchewan Environment's strategy is to continue to focus on the highest value and highest risk areas. Protection strategies are based on the values being threatened and the potential beneficial aspects of each fire. Decisions balance the risk fire poses to all values with the capability to provide protection in a given situation.

Saskatchewan Environment has two output measures for this objective that provide a good indication of how well the program is performing in the full response zone. As the Department gains experience with its reclassified zones, it will develop measures of program performance in the modified and the observation zones.

Key Actions for 2006-07

- Aerial fleet renewal – complete delivery of the next two Convair 580As into fleet operations and begin work on a five-year modernization program for four of the six Canadair water bombing aircraft.
- Work to re-establish the fire observation tower network by erecting three new towers in 2006.

What are we measuring?	Where are we starting from?
Per cent of fires in the full response zone contained to 10 hectares or less	89.9% *[2005 fire season]*
Per cent of escaped fires in the full response zone that are larger than 100 hectares	5.4% *[2005 fire season]*

The percentage of contained fires is a measure of how well the pre-planning, detection and initial attack components of the program are performing in concert. Containing fires to small sizes will minimize the number of communities threatened by fire as well as reduce the area burned and the costs associated with fire suppression. Saskatchewan Environment's

performance results and operating costs depend on a number of factors: analysis of the landscape and its vulnerability to fire starts (e.g., moisture levels, wind speed and direction, fuel type), effective planning to pre-position resources in areas where fire might be expected, ease of access to the location of the fire, topography of fire location, early detection of fires, rapid/effective initial attack and quick reliable support from aircraft.

Escaped fires are an unavoidable occurrence in forest fire programs. Uncontrollable circumstances, such as poor detection conditions; multiple fire starts; dry, windy burning conditions; the volatility of the fuel; proximity to resources to allow for successful initial attack; topography; and the time of the year can all combine to create conditions that allow fires to grow beyond 100 hectares. Resources to suppress fires escalate as the fire size grows, so costs also grow quickly.

OBJECTIVE 2 – *Increased capacity of individuals, communities, industries and others to take responsibility for reducing fire hazards and wildfires*

Wildland fires pose a threat to people, property and natural resources. Residents, communities and businesses need to take precautionary actions to protect their interests. Reducing the risk of wildland fire is a key priority for the provincial fire management program.

The challenge of current programming is to increase co-operation and training among fire management agencies and foster a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of municipal fire management jurisdictions in the Province. Other specific initiatives are focused on vegetation management in provincial parks and on Crown lands, and on educating and encouraging individuals, businesses, communities, cottagers and visitors to the North to prevent wildland fires and reduce wildfire risks.

Saskatchewan Environment now has one measure for this objective. The measure focuses on individuals, while the objective includes individuals, communities and industry. The Department is working to broaden its measures for this objective to provide insight on performance in relation to communities and industry; for example, the Department is now working on a measure of communities with fire safeguards in place.

Key Actions for 2006-07

- Deliver a high profile public awareness campaign with the objectives of: reducing human-caused fires, having those stakeholders that are active in the forest take responsibility to avoid or mitigate the risk from fires, and building understanding of changes to wildfire management strategies.
- Act as a catalyst for risk mitigation work with northern communities by building understanding of wildfire risk and encouraging communities to take ownership of actions to reduce risks.

What are we measuring?	Where are we starting from?
Per cent of human-caused wildland fires	39% *[2005 fire season]*

The wildland fire prevention education and awareness campaign is designed to reduce the percentage of human-caused wildland fires by encouraging individuals to recognize their responsibility for containing the fires they start, by providing individuals with the information they need to be aware of the risks of starting a wildfire, and to use fire more safely. Increasing this awareness is intended to reduce the percentage of human-caused fires, which typically occur closer to communities and resort properties where more people are located. The Department has indirect influence over this measure.

GOAL 3

Fair opportunity for sustainable use and enjoyment of renewable resources

OBJECTIVE 1 *– Equitable allocation of natural renewable resources*

Saskatchewan Environment ensures an equitable allocation of land and resources to competing interests to satisfy environmental, social and economic needs. Conflict over resource use can impinge upon existing uses, delay or stop potential developments, or negatively impact the quantity or quality of natural renewable resources. Saskatchewan Environment's strategy for equitable allocation is to maintain programs that monitor health and abundance of the resources, facilitate land use planning, set standards and guidelines for sustainable use, issue land disposition and resource allocations, promote and monitor compliance with conditions, respond to specific risks and threats, improve the health and abundance of the resources, and identify new economic opportunities for sustainable use.

Integrated land use planning is one of the key tools the Department uses to assist in maintaining ecosystem health and determining an equitable allocation of resources among competing users within a designated geographic area. The process provides the opportunity for all impacted resource users to be involved in developing a land use and resource management plan for large or small areas. The planning process and the subsequent implementation of the plans consider sustainability over the long term. Over the past 10 years, six plans have been completed encompassing more than seven million hectares. There are currently six additional plans in progress, encompassing over five million hectares. Saskatchewan Environment manages over 37 million hectares of Crown resource land in total.

A key factor that impacts performance results, and, to some extent program costs, is supply and demand for commodities, which in turn drives research, exploration and development activity in the resource sector. Integrated land use planning is often used to keep a balanced perspective among sustainable economic development, environmental, and cultural and traditional use concerns. Consultation and communication processes inherent in integrated land use plans are key factors in stakeholder acceptance of allocation of natural renewable resources.

Saskatchewan Environment has two output measures for this objective. The Department is working on developing a broader range of measures for the different types of resource allocation.

Key Actions for 2006-07

- Develop a strategic policy framework for Crown resource land management and allocation that supports Government direction and addresses changing stakeholder interests.
- Complete two forest land use plans in 2006-07 as part of planning processes that result in the preparation, finalization and implementation of integrated land use plans to guide protection, management and allocation of Crown resource lands in the Province.
- Complete baseline assessment for the Great Sand Hills Regional Environmental Study and submit recommendations.

What are we measuring?	Where are we starting from?
Number of hectares of Crown land under Integrated Land Use Plans (ILUP)	7.3 million hectares *[2004-05]*
Per cent of annual allowable cut harvested	67%

Integrated land use planning is an ecosystem-based tool that links the environment, the community and the economy in ways that help ensure the sustainability of resources. The unification of the many varied interests through the ILUP process requires time, commitment, a high level of participation and adequate funding. Any influences that adversely affect any of these four key components will result in at least a degree of loss of control or influence over the measure.

The percentage of annual allowable cut harvested reflects the effectiveness of the balance between environmental protection and economic development. The annual allowable cut is determined by a variety of environmental factors. The Department has significant influence over this measure because the Department determines the annual maximum allowable cut. However, individual companies determine the percentage of the allowable cut they will actually harvest based on a number of uncontrollable factors including demand and available prices for forest sector products.

OBJECTIVE 2 *– Accessible recreation and educational opportunities on provincial park and Crown resource lands*

Provincial parks and protected areas contribute to Saskatchewan's economic prosperity. Crown lands and provincial parks are public assets administered by Saskatchewan Environment for public use and enjoyment. These areas provide economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits to the Province. Rural municipalities and businesses in and near parks expect that provincial parks will continue to sustain and expand economic growth through tourism.

Saskatchewan Environment's park programs maintain park landscapes and buildings to promote a high-quality visitor experience within a natural setting, set standards and policies for sustainable use and enjoyment of parks, monitor and enforce policies essential to a safe and enjoyable park experience, promote tourism and business development opportunities within parks and in nearby communities and manage overlapping demands from competing park users. The Department also leases and permits the sale and use of Crown land and resources, such as expanding the access to cottage opportunities in parks and on resource Crown lands across the Province. Public expectation is that the legacy, future options and other intangible benefits of provincial parks are maintained for future generations.

The Commercial Revolving Fund (CRF) is utilized to manage annual operating budgets for provincial parks. Three-year averages are used to establish annual revenue projections and set the operating budgets for each park location. Weather plays the largest role in determining the degree of success and financial stability of the park program because of its impact on annual park visitation.

Saskatchewan Environment has two measures for this objective, one output and one quality (satisfaction) measure. While this objective is focused on both park and Crown resource lands, data sources for measures related to Crown resource lands are currently not available. The Department is developing a plan for future direction of provincial parks which may help inform choices about future performance measures for this objective.

Key Actions for 2006-07

- Finalize and begin to implement a ten-year Parks Legacy Plan including greening of our parks, co-ordinated marketing with tourism agencies and other parks, and refurbishment of core park facilities.
- Promote and host provincial parks' 75th anniversary celebrations.
- Reassess cottage development programming in Saskatchewan, in consultation with First Nations, provincial park cottagers, development proponents and other interest groups.
- Apply improved green technology to a number of capital projects in the provincial parks.
- Provide funds for urban parks in North Battleford and Weyburn.

What are we measuring?	Where are we starting from?
Number of provincial park visitations	2,124,333 *[2004-05]*
Per cent of survey respondents indicating satisfaction with their park visitations	69% *[2004-05]*

Number of visitations to provincial parks is a measure of park access and popularity. Tracking this number helps Saskatchewan Environment evaluate the success of its park policies and related programs. Notwithstanding the influence of weather conditions on park visits, Saskatchewan Environment has direct influence on the demand for provincial park use through marketing, park fees and recreation opportunities provided.

Saskatchewan Environment provides access to natural and cultural areas and recreational facilities and services in our provincial parks. Park visitor satisfaction levels assess, from the visitor's perspective, the results of these activities. Saskatchewan Environment's parks-related programs and facilities directly influence visitor satisfaction.

***OBJECTIVE 3** – Increased economic benefits based on sustainable use of natural renewable resources*

Sustainable use of natural resources contributes more than $1 billion to the provincial economy. Forestry initiatives in northern Saskatchewan support thousands of jobs and expand business opportunities. Nature-based tourism (hunting, fishing, camping, etc.) generates millions of dollars annually in economic activity. Provincial parks have a significant impact on the Saskatchewan economy. In total, Saskatchewan provincial parks generate 1,004 full-time equivalent jobs (over $26 million in employment income) and $129 million to local economies as reported in the Derek Murray Consulting Associates 2004 report, *Economic and Social Impact Assessment of Saskatchewan's Provincial Parks.*

Saskatchewan Environment programs seek to identify, promote, and develop opportunities for additional use of natural resources with the involvement and support of affected communities, the private sector, Aboriginal groups, and other users of the landscape. Activities supporting this process include identifying the size and accessibility of resources and assessing the potential for sustainable use.

Saskatchewan Environment has six output measures for this objective. The objective focuses on both economic impacts and sustainable use. Two of the measures focus on sustainable use, though they are limited to the forested area of the Province. One of the measures is on economic impact of provincial parks, one is a proxy measure of economic impact and the fifth and sixth are measures of use of two resources.

Key Actions for 2006-07

- Work with Forestry Secretariat to build a new forest industry strategy for Saskatchewan.
- Implement the forest management planning component of the Forest Planning Manual in the development of the new Mistik Forest Management Plan.
- Spray approximately 40,000 hectares of the commercial forest to protect it from spruce budworm.
- Support efforts to establish agro-forestry in the Province.
- Conduct public and stakeholder consultations as a prerequisite for drafting a new Provincial Fisheries Management Plan.

What are we measuring?	Where are we starting from?
Number of hectares of the Provincial forest meeting basic level of forest management (fire suppression, licensed harvest, standards including renewal, consultation)	5,055,272 hectares
Number of hectares of the Provincial forest meeting enhanced level of forest management (basic forest management plus approved Forest Management Plan, Forest Management Effects Monitoring Plan implemented, trust fund established for forest renewal)	7,073,917 hectares
Dollar value of commercial fishing and aquaculture production	$11 million *[2004-05]*
Economic impact of Saskatchewan's provincial parks	$64.2 million *[2003-04; "Economic and Social Impact Assessment of Saskatchewan's Provincial Parks"]*
Number of angling licences sold	160,500 *[2004-05]*
Number of hunting licences sold	120,546 *[2004-05]*

Sustainability of the forest industry is dependent on a wide variety of factors. The number of hectares of Crown land within the Commercial Forest that have in place a comprehensive suite of management programs, including adequate forest inventory, reforestation plans, appropriate environmental assessments, Forest Management Agreements and land use plans is a measure, or indicator, of sustainable use of Saskatchewan's provincial forest resources. The Department has direct influence over these measures because sustainable management tools are Department led. Factors that influence forestry development initiatives include lack of infrastructure in remote areas, market demands and opportunities for value-added products.

Revenue to commercial fishers and value of aquaculture production contribute to the economy of the Province. Saskatchewan Environment has some influence over this measure for commercial fishing through designating and assigning catch quotas for commercial fishing sites, and for aquaculture through evaluation and approval of commercial aquaculture proposals from the industry. Factors such as market conditions, weather, forest fires and job changes by fishers affect the measurement results. The data to gauge progress towards this measure has a lag-time of more than one year.

Provincial parks have a substantial impact on the Province's economy, especially in rural Saskatchewan. Thirty-three per cent of all visits to provincial parks include tourists who come from outside the Province and Saskatchewan residents who travel more than 199 km to a park. Any expenditure that they make during a stay at the park, and the Government's expenditures on provincial parks, increases the economic activity and impacts the GDP. Factors such as weather and gas prices can impact the number of visits, length of stay and visitors' expenditures.

Sport fishing is an important element of nature-based tourism that contributes to the economy of the Province. Saskatchewan Environment has some influence over sport fishing through fishing regulations, licence fees and harvest quotas. Other factors, such as weather and fish populations also affect angler numbers.

Hunting is a major component of nature-based tourism that contributes to the economy of the Province. It can also be used to support the sustainability of the resource through population management. Saskatchewan Environment has some influence over hunting through regulations, licence fees and hunting quotas. Other factors such as the weather, wildlife populations and animal disease also affect hunter numbers.

GOAL 4

Shared environmental stewardship

***OBJECTIVE 1** – Comprehensive and integrated environmental strategies*

Saskatchewan Environment is leading the development of a Government-wide Green Strategy that will establish greater integrated and shared responsibility for environmental protection and contribute to development of a stronger economy.

To be effective, social and economic decisions that integrate environmental protection and economic sustainability considerations require widespread support and commitment from all Saskatchewan people. All of us share the responsibility to manage the impact on local, regional and global environments of our activities and decisions. Knowledge should be used to inform prudent management decisions that implement shared values and bring shared benefits.

As part of the Green Strategy to pursue this objective, Saskatchewan Environment will review its legislation and policy tools to improve existing or create new tools to support greater integration and shared responsibility.

One example of Saskatchewan Environment's strategy to address this objective is to promote waste reduction and recycling initiatives which support shared environmental stewardship of the land by all individuals within the Province. Another example is watershed planning being facilitated by Saskatchewan Watershed Authority.

Saskatchewan Environment will take a lead role in promoting best practices with a number of departments and Crown corporations developing stewardship plans as a component of their strategic plan and annual public reporting on performance.

Key Actions for 2006-07

- Lead implementation of a Government-wide Green Strategy that will complement the *Action Plan on the Economy* in the development of a green and prosperous economy.
- Implement provincial recycling programs for waste electronics (e-waste) and paint, and develop a recycling program for paper, plastics, glass and metal.
- Lead the development and piloting of environmental stewardship plans in three government departments.
- Design and implement a system for sharing environmental monitoring information from federal, provincial, municipal, First Nation and private sector programs.

What are we measuring?	**Where are we starting from?**
Recycling rates for the following:	
• scrap tires	70%
• beverage containers	87%
• pesticide containers	66%
• used oil	83%
	[2004-05]
• paint	0%
• e-waste	0%
	[2005-06]

Recycling is an indicator of public commitment to waste minimization and indicates shared responsibility for environmental stewardship. Baseline percentages reported in the recycling program are based on the proportion of total annual product sales in the Province. The Department administers the enabling regulations for a number of third-party stewardship programs. Market conditions and public commitment determine the recycling rates.

***OBJECTIVE 2** – First Nations and Métis rights and interests are met through co-operative means*

The First Nations and Métis people have Treaty and Aboriginal rights and interests in the renewable natural resources administered by Saskatchewan Environment. The Department is committed to accommodating these rights and interests, as well as ensuring conflicts with other societal needs are resolved in a co-operative manner.

Saskatchewan Environment is responsible for helping to fulfill the terms of Saskatchewan Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Agreements as they relate to Crown resource land. As of April 1, 2005, there were 41 active selection files involving 91,596 hectares (226,331 acres) of Crown resource land administered by Saskatchewan Environment in the TLE review process. Sixteen selections totalling 11,717 hectares (28,953 acres) have been purchased but are not yet reserves. Forty-two selections totalling 70,561 hectares (174,355 acres) are now reserves.

The forest sector is an example of Saskatchewan Environment's co-operative approaches to resource management and ensuring that Aboriginal people are partners in forest sector development. This has been accomplished through direct involvement in the forest industry, such as Meadow Lake Tribal Council and NorSask Forest Products, integrated land use planning for forest management and through creative partnerships with the Aboriginal community and industry such as the wood supply agreement with Agency Chiefs Tribal Council.

The recent Supreme Court decision in *Powley* and *Blais* recognizing Métis hunting and fishing rights creates some potential for conflict over resources until details are confirmed over the extent of, and constraints on, this right.

First Nations seek greater decision-making authority over resource management. Changing interpretation over the duty to consult continues to contribute to uncertainty in resource development. Saskatchewan Environment's approach to pursuing this objective is to seek to engage Aboriginal groups, government departments, the federal government and other institutions in working relationships that address one or more of the following goals: ensuring recognition and respect for Treaty and Aboriginal rights; conservation of species and habitats; involvement of Aboriginal communities in economic benefits derived from renewable resources; and building the capacity of First Nations and Métis communities and organizations to effectively co-operate in environment and resource management program and policy development. Programs within the Department are designed to create conditions through Aboriginal employment and cultural awareness that enable Saskatchewan Environment to effectively respond to Aboriginal interests and rights.

Saskatchewan Environment has one output measure for this objective. Over time, the Department intends to develop a measure that provides insight on the effectiveness of its co-operative relationships with First Nations and Métis groups.

Key Actions for 2006-07

- Increase Saskatchewan Environment's ability to work with the various Tribal Councils to deal with forestry, mining and other land use issues in northern Saskatchewan.
- Work co-operatively with Entitlement First Nations to help them acquire the land they are entitled to purchase pursuant to Treaty Land Entitlement Agreements.
- In partnership with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, undertake consultations on a First Nations Environmental Strategy.

What are we measuring?	Where are we starting from?
Number of co-operative relationships with First Nations and Métis groups	83 *[2004-05]*

Saskatchewan Environment is collaborating with Aboriginal organizations at the provincial, tribal council and local band and community levels to create arrangements that result in benefits to the ecosystem, sustainable natural resource-based economic developments and improved consultation and Aboriginal involvement in decision-making.

A functional co-operative relationship with a First Nations organization means a formal (written) or informal (oral) agreement of co-operation, regular face-to-face meetings to address issues at hand or to develop mutually beneficial natural resource management policies.

The Department has direct influence over these relationships through the ability to establish formal agreements and/or through addressing controversial resource management issues in face-to-face discussions.

OBJECTIVE 3 *– Strengthened and comprehensive compliance strategies*

Compliance efforts are used to achieve Saskatchewan Environment's strategic goals and objectives. The compliance function is the effort that directly encourages the community to conduct themselves in accordance with requirements established by law, or to take action for positive effect on the environment. The Department's compliance model seeks to encourage voluntary compliance through information and education. When voluntary compliance appears to fail, efforts shift to prevention through targeted physical inspection, direct interaction and, when necessary, investigation and enforcement.

Saskatchewan Environment's scan and risk assessment suggest that the environmental problems of the future will require a more sophisticated combination of compliance tools, as well as a more focused and risk-based management approach to prioritize compliance and enforcement activities. New ways to enhance compliance through partnerships, education, communications, and creative prevention programs are being examined. Efforts are also being made to more carefully match compliance tools to type and level of risk.

Saskatchewan Environment has two output measures for this objective. Both measures are rates of compliance. The Department is working to develop measures of the tools used in the compliance process.

Key Actions for 2006-07

- Implement a risk-based annual compliance plan including responses to high risk issues.
- Establish a specialized environmental prosecutor in Saskatchewan Justice.
- Implement the water and wastewater compliance protocol to attain compliance with drinking water regulatory requirements.
- Strengthen northern compliance and enforcement capacity to respond to increasing environment and resource management issues in the North.

What are we measuring?	Where are we starting from?
Number of waterworks that do not meet Saskatchewan Environment's minimum treatment requirements (broken down by pre and post regulatory changes)	16 systems (before regulatory changes) 5 systems (post regulatory changes) *[September 30, 2005]*
Rate of detection of non-compliance with environmental laws and regulations	Baseline to be determined

Compliance with environmental laws and regulations is critical to ensuring that all people within the Province are held to the same standards for their use and enjoyment of the Province's natural resources.

Safe drinking water is critical to human health. Meeting minimum treatment requirements is a measure of infrastructure water treatment capability, and therefore of the safety of drinking water that they produce. Saskatchewan Environment has a high level of influence over this measure through the Department's regulations; however, because of significant costs for treatment upgrades, communities need time and encouragement to comply.

Compliance rates are determined by totalling the number of contacts that Conservation Officers have with the public and comparing these to the total number of charges and warnings. Charges and warnings are an indication of non-compliance. The Department has the ability to directly influence the amount of contact Conservation Officers have with the public through targeting its resources. The Department has indirect influence on the actual compliance of individuals to environmental laws and regulations through education and communication initiatives.

***OBJECTIVE 4** – Effective and efficient environmental approval and regulatory processes*

One of Saskatchewan Environment's key roles is to provide the environmental approval and regulations that govern people's actions, so the quality of the environment is protected for future generations. In addition to the numerous formal acts and regulations, the Department also uses less formal tools such as permits, establishing standards and guidelines, promoting industry best practices, and environment management systems.

The Environmental Assessment Act is intended to facilitate economic opportunities that exhibit environmental integrity. Proponents prepare environmental impact statements early in the planning and design phase of projects to document the broader impacts of the development proposal on the social, economic and biophysical aspects of the area. In recent years, much work has been done in conjunction with the oil and gas, mining and transportation industries to streamline the approval process, and facilitate understanding and resolution of environmental concerns early in the project planning stage. Saskatchewan Environment intends to work in conjunction with other sectors to further streamline the approval process, standardize environmental requirements, and examine more efficient permitting requirements.

Saskatchewan Environment's performance and cost to deliver these services are driven by caseload as dictated by the nature and number of development proposals being advanced at any particular time. On average, about 250 project proposals are reviewed annually and guidance is provided on compliance with provincial environmental and other regulations. Six to 10 of these proposals annually require a full environmental impact assessment.

Saskatchewan Environment is introducing a performance measure for this objective based on client satisfaction of one of the Department's major stakeholders.

Key Actions for 2006-07

- Review and revise Saskatchewan Environment's legislative and regulatory framework in support of a new environmental management model that increases our options of tools to encourage compliance while emphasizing performance and outcomes, rather than prescriptive regulation.
- Complete three additional results-based standards in support of the new regulatory framework necessary to implement and enforce sustainable forest management.

What are we measuring?

Provincial ranking with respect to mining industry satisfaction with environmental regulations

Where are we starting from?

Saskatchewan ranks third of the five provinces rated (four western provinces, and Ontario)
[2004-05]

In a global industry, a region's policy climate takes on an increasingly important role in attracting and retaining investment in the mining sector. Good environmental regulations provide for a balance of environmental protection and predictability and timeliness of process. The Fraser Institute has conducted an annual survey of mining companies since 1997 to assess how a province's mineral endowment and public policy factors effect exploration investment. This measure provides third-party assessment of our performance and is a benchmarked measure with other comparable jurisdictions. The Department of Environment has direct influence over the environmental regulations that are required for the mining industry.

For More Information

Your input on Saskatchewan Environment's strategic direction and the key actions within this plan is important to help determine our organization's future direction and priorities. If you have any questions or comments about the plan, or would like additional copies, we invite you to call:

Rick Bates at (306) 787-0114
or Saskatchewan Environment's Inquiry Centre, Prince Albert (306) 953-3750
Toll free in Saskatchewan: 1-800-567-4224

Or visit us on-line at: http://www.se.gov.sk.ca